

CONCERNING KANSAS.

NOTES.

Jerry Simpson's health has greatly improved during the past week.

The Riley county convention will be held at Manhattan, May 31, with seventy-one delegates.

Two more newspaper souls have been saved. The Downs World and the Madison Index will be Populist in the future.

Frank R. Forrest and Joseph Taggart are to hold a joint discussion on the finance and tariff questions at Brookville, Saline county, next Saturday evening.

Hooch's boom for the governor nomination has about flattened out. It was a poor, little, sickly thing when it was born, and it never grew very much. At least, most of the republican delegates are being instructed for Morrill.

Fletcher Meredith, who has a record almost equal to that of Congressman Breckenridge, has been nominated for the legislature in the Hutchinson district in opposition to the Hutchinson News, a paper of his own party.

Senator Leedy glories in the distinction of representing the petitioners for equitable railroad rates before the board of railroad commissioners. Mr. Leedy may have been charged with doing more than he really did toward the rate movement, but he is not a man who sits around and talks without acting.

Dispatches have been sent out from Topeka stating that there was no interest manifested here regarding the Coxey movement. This is false. It signifies the most intense interest when audiences gather two or three times a week and listen to the repetition of long-winded speeches until the speakers sink from sheer exhaustion.

Cherokee county has a rival for the championship belt. In Osborne county Bloom township's vote was, Populist, 80; republican, 13; and the vote of Winfield township, same county, was Populist, 54; republican, 8. But this record from South Shirley, Cloud county, beats 'em all. H. H. Young reports it: Populists, 84; republicans, 1; democrats, 000,000,000.

A circular from Mrs. Johns says: "The question of whether or not women should be enfranchised is to be debated in Wichita on the evening of June 20. The high contending parties to be Rev. Annie H. Shaw for the affirmative and T. B. Wall for the negative. Both sides of this important question will get a thorough airing on this occasion. The forensic power of Dr. Shaw and Judge Wall is considerable. This event is awaited with much interest."

The best plan the republicans could adopt in order to redeem Kansas would be to pay back some of the money and property their officials have stolen from the state in past years. Here is another example: The books of the Osawatimie asylum show that in 1890 that institution received 30,606 bushels of coal, in 1891, 11,104 bushels, and in 1892, 8,158 bushels, and the consumption for 1893 was about the same as for the previous year. There is no reason why the institution needed more coal in 1891 and 1892 than in the last two years. Now the question is, who got the proceeds of the coal that was stolen from there.

The Railroad Assessment.

It would take one man's time to keep track of the numerous misrepresentations that are being made to throw discredit upon the present management of state affairs. The State Journal emphasizes the assertion that the board of

railroad assessors have conceived a plan to reduce the assessment on railroad property and to conceal their actions until after the state convention, and perhaps until after the election. To prove this the Journal calls attention to and misconstrues a circular recently sent out by Auditor Prather to county clerks, drawing from this circular the conclusion that "this reform administration propose to openly violate the law in regard to the railroad assessment making the excuse that it has always been done and that if they obeyed the law too much money would be collected from the railroads. The circular to county clerks explains itself. It is as follows:

DEAR SIR:—The board of railroad assessors met according to law on the third Monday in this (April) month, organized and adjourned until the May 23, for the purpose of giving railroad companies time to send in the rest of their returns, and also gave the secretary of the board time to procure what information could be gathered from the county clerks as to the assessment.

This year real estate is valued and the board desires to know whether there will be any material change from two years ago on real estate, and if personal property will vary from last year. We have heard from some counties where the valuations have been reduced. The general revenue fund of 35 mills, and the interest fund of .2 mills are fixed by law, and the board of equalization can not change them. The board of equalization last year reduced the current university fund from .2 to .1 mills, making a total of 3.8 mills. The law says property must be assessed at its actual cash value but no penalty is attached, hence it is never done, and if it was we would have a larger amount of money taken from the tax payers and piled up in the treasury not needed. The legislature must take some action before assessments can be made at actual cash value without doing the people an injustice. Please give me what information you possess and oblige.

Weaver Speaks Plainly.

The agitation in favor of nominating General Weaver for congress in the Sixth district, in case he should move to Beloit, as he thought seriously of doing, was practically stopped, for the time being at least, by the following letter from the general to Chairman Briedenthal. It is dated April 23:

MY DEAR SIR:—I have been requested by a large number of citizens residing in fully one-half of the counties composing the Sixth congressional district of your state to move into the district, stating it to be their purpose to make me their candidate for congress at the ensuing election; more requests are still being received daily by every mail. While it is true that I have been more or less identified with the reform work in Kansas for the past fifteen years, and have repeatedly met the people of said district, I could not seriously consider the request unless it were made with practical unanimity, and I would then have to feel that compliance with the request would be conducive to good feeling everywhere throughout the state. Kansas must be carried this fall; and no friend of humanity will, at this critical juncture, do anything which might, by any possibility, lead to discord or dissension. While I feel profoundly grateful for the high compliment which so many of the people of the Sixth district have paid me by requesting my settlement among them, yet feeling that there might arise among our friends some objection to the movement, I consider it my duty to decline the most generous and complimentary offer.

You can count on every effort on my part, as well as on the part of every friend I have in the world, to secure a glorious victory in Kansas, and I shall work unceasingly to that end.

Fraternally yours,

J. B. WEAVER.

Dutton House, Topeka, Kas., \$1.25—\$1.50 per day

Roasting Senator Wolcott.

Since the extra session, when Senator Wolcott was representing the silver interests of the Western states, something has transpired to change the senator's views regarding the labor question. On April 26, he addressed the senate in opposition to Allen's resolution favoring respectful treatment to the commonwealers. This quotation is sufficient to show the tone of Wolcott's speech:

I am tired of this talk of natural demonstration. In Colorado to-day, crushed and humiliated as she is by the action of congress, I venture to say no man is suffering because he can find no work, or no willing hands to assist in supporting him until work can be found for him. I believe the time has come when those of us who are in public life ought to begin to cultivate more regard for the perpetuity of republican institutions and to pander less to that miscalled portion of the labor vote, whose labor is with their throats and never with their hands.

The speech has aroused indignation among people of all parties, many of whom are disgusted with the senator's inconsistency. The Kansas sentiment regarding it is very well expressed in the following letter by S. H. Snider, superintendent of insurance:

Senator Wolcott, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR:—Your utterances on the floor of the United States senate, April 26, (as given in the press dispatches) in your speech in opposition to Mr. Allen's "Coxey Resolution" challenges an emphatic protest from every loyal, intelligent American who reads the same. When you say there is to-day "no man who sincerely desires to work for the support of himself and family, who can not obtain work," you place yourself positively in one of three positions, i. e., you are ignorant of the present conditions of not only your own state but this whole country, or you knowingly prevaricate, or you feel that so august (?) a personage as a United States senator is too far removed from the common people who compose the majority of his constituency, to be under any obligations to heed their petitions or protests. If the first or last position be true, you are unfit to represent a body of American people; if the second, the sooner you are impeached the better, because the people are thinking and arriving at convictions and settled conclusions with greater rapidity than ever before, and they will not much longer tolerate disloyalty to pledges given and gauzy excuses in place of integrity in their so-called representatives.

The Coxey movement is not the result of a session of legislation but of years of enactments by just such individuals as you and your plutocratic colleagues, by your own words, prove yourselves to be. You have been legislating for the power in this land represented by a minority of its citizens, i. e., wealth. No refusal to listen to their petitions has ever been made, no matter in what form they came; no effort has ever been made to protect the city of Washington, the national treasury, or the halls of congress against their insidious entrance; at their dictation we have had forced upon us a contraction of the currency; combines, trusts and monopolies of every kind and description have been fostered; a high protective war tariff given them (under the guise of "protection of American labor") and under this system these highly protected industries have caused to be shipped into this country Italian pauper laborers, who have no conception or knowledge of our form of government, to supplant loyal American citizens whose skill, labor and enterprise has made the gigantic fortunes arising out of this system which sophistry has called their protection. American citizens, sons of fathers who fought in revolutions which gave birth to the principles of what would be the grandest government on earth if administered as the will of the masses dictated; such men, according to you, your colleagues and a subsidized press, are vagabonds, because, on account of conditions brought upon them by vicious legislation enacted by men they trusted, they have no visible means of support.

For years they have petitioned congress

for relief, but their written petitions have been utterly ignored; now they come, peaceably, in person to ask that their rights be respected and petitions considered. They form the largest body of personal petitioners which has ever gone to the national capital, and though in comparison with our whole population their number may seem small, yet it is not, for back of them are millions whose hearts beat in sympathy with them. They are only the committee. They are not men of the worst element of the country, but are true citizens, loving liberty, home, and a government of the people. Men who realize, as do their sympathizers, that as the creature is not greater than the creator, congress must be amenable to the power which created it, and nine-tenths of the people are to-day demanding relief at its hands.

In view of the above facts which should be patent to every unbiased, thinking man, we demand for them a most respectful and cordial hearing. I am, sir, yours truly,

S. H. SNIDER.

Topeka, Kas., April 27, 1894.

Reform School Investigation.

Superintendent Hitchcock, of the Boys' Reform school near Topeka, is being investigated for alleged abusive treatment of the inmates of the school. The complaints were made by different persons and Noah Allen is conducting the aggressive side of the case. Some of the evidence given is very damaging to the superintendent, but both sides of the case have not yet been heard.

What Is It?

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—Is it patriotism that imbues President Cleveland that causes him to rest as stolid and motionless as one of the many marble statues in Washington, while the whole interests of a nation of 70 million people, along with the lives of individuals, are being murdered? Is it Jeffersonian democracy or Lincoln republicanism that is bracing this latter-day Nero to sacrifice this nation to the golden image in Wall street, while he pays off his thugs in patronage-pie? Is he and his pie-eating congress, so blind, so devoid of reason and justice, that they for a moment suppose that they, with the damnable laws of their own making, can "check" this whole people, while they hurry this nation over the road to eternal perdition, with no word or action of the people in remonstrance? Is every other interest of this broad dominion to be sacrificed for blood-sucking, life-eating bonds for bank-sharks?

Where is the hope for the life of this nation if not invested in the people? Is it vested in a president whose greedy money-maw seems to crave the earth and the fullness thereof? Is it vested in any congress, which, upon the whole, has perjured itself for the past thirty years?

Who now wonders at the great, good Lincoln, writing his friend in Illinois: "I tremble for my country?" Had the bankers of New York a right to repair to Washington in a Pullman special train to petition Mr. Cleveland to veto the seigniorage bill? Certainly.

Have the Coxeyites the right to walk there, hundreds of miles through snow, rain and mud, to petition a perfidious congress for relief? "By the eternal," we shall see. As long as the commonwealers go in order and peace, I am sure that the best wishes and sympathy of a large majority of the people are with them. May the old Liberty bell catch on to the resonant tones of the weary footsteps of the commonwealers and ring out a new Declaration of Independence that will be a loving pride of all Americans.

JIM M. KANE.

P. S.—All of our friends here are asking for the kind blessings of heaven for your Washington correspondent, Mrs. Anna L. Diggs, particularly for her last letter in the ADVOCATE on Coxey.

J. M. K.